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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

[*Unsigned notes are by the editor*]

Dr. A. H. W. Povah, recently connected with the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, has been appointed assistant professor of botany at Northwestern University.

Dr. Arthur S. Rhoads, formerly Assistant in Forest Pathology of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry, and more recently of the Office of Cereal Investigations and the Office of Fruit Disease Investigations of the same bureau, has resigned to accept the position of pathologist at the Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station at Mountain Grove, Missouri.

A list of smuts and rusts prepared by Mrs. Flora W. Patterson and her assistants has been issued as Department Circular 195 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Septocladia dichotoma, a new genus and species of water-molds, was described and figured by Coker and Grant in the *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* for March, 1922.

Two fine specimens of *Clavaria subcaespitosa* Peck, representing different stages of the plant, have been sent to the mycological herbarium by Miss Ann Hibbard, who collected them at Ellis, Massachusetts, the type locality, on August 23, 1921. In a letter accompanying the plants Miss Hibbard remarks: "The spores in these specimens are rough, but Dr. Burt, to whom I have also sent specimens, writes me that spores of the type specimen at Albany are rough, although Mr. Peck made no mention of that fact in his published description of the species."

The Imperial Bureau of Mycology has undertaken the publication of a monthly abstracting journal, the *Review of Applied Mycology,* for the purpose of supplying, month by month, a summary of the work published in all countries on the diseases of plants and various other aspects of economic mycology. The first number was issued in January, 1922, and a volume of between four and five hundred pages annually is expected. All communications respecting the publication should be sent to the Editor, Imperial Bureau of Mycology, Kew, Surrey.

In a recent article by Professor Bruce Fink under the heading of "An Addition to the Distribution of a Rare Fungus" (MYCOLOGIA, Vol. XIV, p. 49) it is noted that a collection of *Tylostoma verrucosum* made at Oxford, Ohio, in 1921 seemed to be a fourth locality for this fungus. Some twenty of these fine plants were found growing gregariously on very rich leaf-mold on the Indiana University campus, Monroe County, Indiana, October 2, 1911. This was published in the Indiana Academy of Science, 1911, p. 351.—*J. M. Van Hook.*

The spores of *Schizophyllum commune* are shown by J. F. Adams in *Torreya* for November–December, 1921, to be slightly pinkish in mass, and the suggestion is made that it belongs, therefore, in the Rhodosporae rather than in the Leucosporae. Several species belonging to *Pleurotus,* a white-spored genus, also have rosy-tinted spores. Nature does not always draw her lines as definitely as man would like. Mr. Adams's suggestion that *Schizophyllum* might be used by students for spore prints during the winter is an excellent one.

The Report of the New York State Botanist for 1919, distributed in February, 1922, contains a list of about 20 fungi new to the state; a description of the new species *Microdiplodia populi* Dearness from Colorado; an index to the New York species of *Mycosphaerella,* 47 in number; an article on new or noteworthy species of fungi, by Dearness and House; and studies in the genus *Inocybe,* by Kauffman, briefly noticed in the March number of

Mycologia. New species described by Dearness and House are: *Diaporthe menispermi, Diaporthe triostei, Didymella agrostidis, Gloeosporium acutiloba, Gnomoniopsis acerophila, Leptosphaeria collinsoniae, Leptothyrium conspicuum, Phomopsis impatientis, Ramularia eamesii, Saccardinula alni, Septoria acetosella, Septoria hieracicola, Stagonospora meliloti,* and *Venturia fimbriata.*

Volume 6, part 1, of *North American Flora* consists of a monograph of the genus *Phyllosticta* by Fred J. Seaver. The work is largely a compilation of the species described and reported for North America—*i.e.,* no attempt has been made to culture out the species in order to determine their life histories, although the gross morphology has been studied as carefully as the available material will permit. Wherever the perfect stage is known, it has been indicated in a note supplementary to the descriptions. In order to comply with the form, a key has been arranged. On account of the difficulty, however, of constructing a satisfactory key for such a large genus in which the specific differences are so slight, the general rule for *North American Flora* has been modified and a host index supplied for the genus. An attempt has been made to correct host determinations where material is adequate, but unfortunately many of the specimens are so fragmentary that it has been necessary to accept the host determinations made by the collector. The entire work consists of 84 pages of text and was issued early in April, 1922.

MACBRIDE'S NORTH AMERICAN SLIME-MOULDS[1]

Both student and nature lover will welcome the appearance of Professor Macbride's long-looked-for revision of the North American Slime-Moulds, for in spite of its obscurity this group of organisms is of like interest to both the professional botanist and the amateur. Standing as they do on the border line between animals and plants, or, as suggested by the author of the book, perhaps outside the pale of either, they furnish a most fertile field for the speculation of the student. Consisting, as they do in their vegetative stage, of a naked mass of liquid protoplasm which, unlike all other liquids, defies the laws of gravity and persistently flows uphill instead of down, these organisms never cease to arouse the interest of the nature student, provided their eyes are keen enough to detect them at all or some one has directed their attention to them.

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[1] Macbride, T. H. North American Slime-Moulds, pp. i–xvii, 1–299. The MacMillan Co., New York, 1922.

Add to this the varied and fantastic shapes which are assumed by the fruiting stage of the slime-moulds and which adorn the ugly surface of rotting logs with minute feathers and cushions of the most delicate structures and beautiful colors, and it is difficult to select any group of either animals or plants which can furnish a more fascinating subject for observation and study. Only one other thing is necessary to make this work a great success, and that is the personality of the man behind the book, which, while it may shine out through the printed page, can never be fully appreciated unless one, like the writer, has come into personal contact with its author in the classroom.

In matters of nomenclature the author has not followed hard and fast rules, but has apparently attempted to use the oldest recognizable specific names without regard to rule or date. He has attempted to correlate the work of America and Europe so that the species common to the two continents will appear under the same names in the standard American and European works, where the identity can be agreed upon. One other very commendable feature of the book is the extensive notes and observations which supplement the technical descriptions.

The illustrations consist of twenty-three plates as compared with eighteen in the old edition. The plates are made in half-tone from photographs and drawings showing habitat sketches and microscopic details. The drawings are very well done, the sculpturing of the spores and capillitium being so well shown that they can not fail to arouse in the reader a desire to see actually and know more of these wonderful organisms. No colored illustrations are used. A copy of this book should be in the hands of not only every botanist, but also of every nature student who loves to ramble in the woods and fields in search of natural objects of interest.

F. J. SEAVER